

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 17, 2006, and the cited art have been carefully considered. The application has been amended to eliminate unnecessary limitations and to correct grammatical and similar errors. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested based on the amendments and following discussion.

OBJECTIONS:

1. The title was objected to.
The title has been amended.

REJECTION 102:

1. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Kamimura JP 2002-260581 (English translation). In particular, paragraph 52 of Kamimura '581 was pointed out.

Kamimura '581 shows a high-pressure discharge lamp with a seal foil coated with Pt, Ta, W, Re, Nb, V, Zr, Hf, Ho, Dy, Y, Sc, or B.

Kamimura '581 fails to provide a prima facie case of invalidity under 35 USC 102, since Kamimura '581 fails to show, suggest, state or claim a limitation included in Applicants' claims. Kamimura '581 fails to teach a seal where the foil is coated with one of the metals, "...*ruthenium, iridium, osmium and rhodium.*"

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

REJECTION 103:

Regarding any claim of obviousness as to Kamimura '581, it should be noted that the softening point of Quartz is about 1655 degrees Celsius, but the typical working temperature is about 1900 C. The melting point of platinum is 1772 C, which is less than the working temperature of quartz. In processing, a platinum coating would then melt and infuse with quartz, resulting in the adhesion problem the Applicant seeks to overcome. Further, the platinum metals (group 8) are chosen for chemical reaction characteristics. Ruthenium, iridium, osmium and rhodium all have melting points greater than the typical working temperature of quartz, and are all members of the platinum metals (group 8). Kamimura '581 only suggests one platinum group metal (platinum) and that choice has the lower melting point that does not work with quartz. Kamimura

'581 does not show, teach or suggest metal coatings that are non-reactive and non-melting in sealing with quartz to overcome the adhesion problem. Kamimura '581 does not make the claimed invention obvious.

It is believed that a full and complete response to the Office Action has been made, that the Application as amended is patentably distinct over the cited art, and that the case is now in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the amended application is therefore requested, and an early favorable notice of allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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